(b) to (d) ONGC had discovered the Ratna-R-Series fields and had a Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) valid for 20 years *i.e.* from 11.2.1981 to 10.2.2001 for exploitation of oil and gas. In December, 2002, ONGC had applied for fresh grant of PML for another 20 years w.e.f. 11.2.2001. As mentioned above, a final decision on the PSC is yet to be arrived at.

Functioning of retail outlet in Bareilly

1688. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1276 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Letters of Intent (LOI) are regularly delayed in all such cases where complaints are received;

(b) the reasons for the delay in the issue of letter of intent to the allottees alongwith the outcome of the enquiry and the decision taken by the competent authority;

(c) the time-frame within which the retail outlet at Bareilly shall be made functional;

(d) the steps being taken to avoid such delays on account of frivolous complaints; and

(e) the action being taken against officials responsible for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Whenever a complaint is received against selection of any dealership, it is inquired into by the competent authority in the Oil Marketing Company (OMC) concerned, in line with the OMC's grievance redressal system. No complaint can be dismissed as frivolous at the outset without going into the merits of the complaint. Further, the time taken to complete an inquiry depends upon the nature of the complaint. Therefore, the issue of a Letter of Intent (LOI) may get delayed by varying periods of time, depending on the nature of the complaint, the time taken to complete the investigation into the complaint and the decision by the competent authority based on the investigation report.

(c) to (e) In the case of the retail outlet dealership of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) at Nawabganj, Bareilly, though the interview for the selection of the dealer for this outlet was held in July, 2004, the LOI

could not be issued in time because of a complaint received against selection of the dealer. The complaint has been investigated by the company in line with their grievance redressal system, which also involved asking the complainant to substantiate the allegations. The investigation has since been completed and, based on the outcome of the investigation and the competent authority's decision thereon, the company has issued an LOI to the dealer-select on 3.8.2005. It is not possible to indicate the exact time-frame within which this retail outlet will be made operational as commissioning of any outlet depends on various factors like acquisition of land, obtaining no objection certificate/clearances from various authorities, etc.

HPCL is investigating the matter of the delay in the issue of the LOI for the retail outlet at Nawabganj, Bareilly. Any action against official(s) concerned for this delay will depend on the outcome of this investigation.

Supply of PNG in Delhi

1689. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is being supplied in different areas of Delhi, through pipelines directly from HBJ pipeline;

(b) if so, the areas covered by the PNG supplies, and how the cost of PNG supplies compared with the LPG; and

(c) what are the plans for covering the rest of the capital with PNG?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) receives natural gas from HBJ at DESU terminal, and thereafter through its own pipeline network supplies CNG and PNG to consumers in Delhi. The areas covered for PNG supplies to domestic consumers are :—Golf Link, Sujan Singh Park, Sunder Nagar, Kaka Nagar, Bapa Nagar, Pandara Park, Pandara Road, Lodhi Complex, Lodhi Colony, Sarojini Nagar, Naroji Nagar, Pragati Vihar, Mohammadpur, Bharat Nagar, Friends Colony (East and West), New Friends Colony, Ishwar Nagar, Kalindi Colony, Khan Market, Maharani Bagh, Jor Bagh, Asiad Village, Sukhdev Vihar, Sarita Vihar (Pocket A & H), Zakir Bagh, Pant Nagar, Nizamuddin East